


ANALYSIS

This ordinance repeals those provisions of Title 29 – Mechanical Code – of the Los Angeles County Code that had incorporated by reference portions of the 2013 Edition of the California Mechanical Code and replaces them with provisions incorporating portions of the 2016 California Mechanical Code, published by the California Building Standards Commission, with certain changes and modifications. Unless deleted or modified herein, the previously enacted provisions of Title 29 continue in effect.

State law requires that the County's Mechanical Code contain the same requirements as are contained in the building standards published in the most recent edition of the California Mechanical Code. State law allows the County to change or modify these requirements only if it determines that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. The changes and modifications to the requirements contained in the building standards published in the 2016 California Mechanical Code that are contained in this ordinance are based upon express findings, contained in the ordinance, that such changes are reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

This ordinance also makes certain modifications to the administrative provisions of Title 29.

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CBS:lm

Requested: 08/12/16
Revised: 09/22/16

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 29 – Mechanical Code – of the Los Angeles County Code, by adopting and incorporating, by reference, portions of the 2016 California Mechanical Code, with certain changes and modifications, and making other revisions thereto.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 119.1.2.0 through 119.1.14.0 of Chapter 1, Chapters 2 through 17, and Appendices B, C, and D, which incorporate by reference and modify portions of the 2013 California Mechanical Code, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Section 100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

100 -- ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.

Except as hereinafter changed or modified, Sections 1.2.0 through 1.14.0 of Chapter 1, Division I, of that certain Mechanical Code known and designated as the ~~2013~~2016 California Mechanical Code as published by the California Building Standards Commission are adopted and incorporated, by reference, into this Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code as if fully set forth below, and shall be known as Sections 119.1.2.0 through 119.1.14.0, respectively, of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Except as hereinafter changed or modified, Chapters 2 through 17, and Appendices B, C, and D of that certain Mechanical Code known and designated as the ~~2013~~2016 California Mechanical Code as published by the California Building Standards Commission are adopted and incorporated, by reference, into this Title 29 of

the Los Angeles County Code as if fully set forth below, and shall be known as Chapters 2 through 17 and Appendices B, C, and D of Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code.

A copy of the ~~2013~~2016 California Mechanical Code shall be at all times maintained by the Chief Mechanical Inspector for use and examination by the public.

SECTION 3. Section 107 is hereby amended to read as follows:

107 -- ALTERNATE MATERIALS AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION AND MODIFICATIONS.

Refer to Section 302.2 for the requirements for alternate materials and methods of construction and modifications.

~~**107.1**~~ ~~**Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.**~~

~~**107.1.1**~~ ~~**Purpose and Intent.**~~ Nothing in this Code is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this Code. Technical documentation shall be submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to approve or disapprove the system, method, or device for the intended purpose.

However, the exercise of this discretionary approval by the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have no effect beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of said Authority Having Jurisdiction. Any alternate material or method of construction so approved shall not be considered as conforming to the requirement and/or intent of this Code for any

~~purpose other than that granted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.~~

~~**107.1.2** Application.~~ Application for approval of an alternate material or method of construction shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Mechanical Inspector together with a filing fee of \$231.00. When actual staff review exceeds two hours, an additional fee of \$115.50 per hour shall be charged for each hour or fraction thereof in excess of two hours.

~~**107.1.3** Testing.~~ The Authority Having Jurisdiction may require any applicant to perform testing, in support of its application, in accordance with the following:

~~Tests shall be made in accordance with approved testing standards by an approved testing agency at the expense of the applicant. In the absence of such standards, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to specify the test procedure.~~

~~The Authority Having Jurisdiction may require tests to be made or repeated if, at any time, the Authority Having Jurisdiction has reason to believe that any previously approved alternate material or device no longer conforms to the requirements on which its approval was based.~~

~~**107.2** Modifications.~~ Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this Code, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may grant minor modifications on a case by case basis, provided the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall first find that a special individual reason makes the strict letter of this Code impractical and that the modification is in reasonable conformity with the spirit and

~~purpose of this Code and that such modification does not lessen any health, fire protection, or other life safety related requirements. The details of any action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.~~

SECTION 4. Section 113.5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

113.5 Refund. In the event that any person shall have obtained a permit and no portion of the work or construction covered by such permit shall have been commenced and such permit shall have been canceled without any work having been done as provided for in Section 113.2, the permittee upon presentation to the Chief Mechanical Inspector of a request therefor in writing, shall be entitled to a refund in an amount equal to 80 percent of the fee actually paid for such permit.

~~When approved by T~~the Chief Mechanical Inspector will satisfy himself as to the right of such applicant to such refund and~~and upon verification of eligibility,~~ each such refund shall be paid as provided by law for the payment of claims against the County. No refund shall be made when a permit has been obtained by falsification or misrepresentation and has been revoked for such cause.

SECTION 5. Section 204.0 is hereby amended to read as follows:

204.0 – B –

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Building Code—~~The building code that is adopted by this jurisdiction. [HCD1, HCD 2, OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4, and SFM]~~ "Building Code" shall mean the California

~~Building Code, Title 24, Part 2~~most recent edition of Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code.

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SECTION 6. Section 207.0 is hereby amended to read as follows:

207.0 **– E –**

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~~**Electrical Code**—The National Electrical Code promulgated by the National Fire Protection Association, as adopted by this jurisdiction. [HCD 1 & HCD 2]~~
~~Whenever the term "Electrical Code" is used in this code, it shall mean the California Electrical Code, Title 24, Part 3~~most recent edition of Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code.

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SECTION 7. Section 218.0 is hereby amended to read as follows:

218.0 **– P –**

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~~**Plumbing Code**—The Uniform Plumbing Code promulgated by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, as adopted by this jurisdiction. [HCD 1 & HCD 2]~~ Whenever the term "Plumbing Code" is used in this code, it shall mean the California Plumbing Code, Title 24, Part 5most recent edition of Title 28 of the Los Angeles County Code.

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SECTION 8. Section 302.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**302.2 ALTERNATE MATERIALS AND METHODS OF
CONSTRUCTION-EQUIVALENCY AND MODIFICATIONS.**

302.2.1 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.

Nothing in this eCode is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this eCode. Technical documentation shall be submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to approve or disapprove the system, method, or device for the intended purpose on a case-by-case basis.

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302.2.1.1 Testing.

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302.2.1.1.1 Tests.

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302.2.1.21.2 Requests by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

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302.2.1.2 Application.

Application for the use of an alternate material or method of construction shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Mechanical Inspector together with a filing fee of \$231.00. When staff review exceeds two hours, an additional fee of \$115.50 per hour shall be charged for each hour or fraction thereof in excess of two hours.

302.2.2 Modifications. Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this Code, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to grant modifications on a case-by-case basis, upon application of the owner or the owner's authorized agent, provided the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall first find that a special individual reason makes the strict letter of this Code impractical and that the modification is in conformity with the spirit and purpose of this Code and that such modification does not lessen any health, fire-protection, or other life-safety-related requirements. The details of any action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The application for approval of a modification shall be in accordance with Section 302.2.1.2.

SECTION 9. Section 501.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.1 Applicability. This eChapter includes requirements for environmental air ducts, product-conveying systems, and commercial hoods and kitchen ventilation. Part I addresses environmental air ducts and product-conveying systems. Part II addresses commercial hoods and kitchen ventilation. Ventilation systems installed to control occupational health hazards shall comply with the requirements of the Health Officer.

SECTION 10. Section 510.1.6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

510.1.6 Bracing and Supports. Duct bracing and supports shall be of noncombustible material, securely attached to the structure, not less than the gauge required for grease-duct construction, and designed to carry gravity and lateral loads

within the stress limitations of the Building Code. Bolts, screws, rivets, and other mechanical fasteners shall not penetrate duct walls.

SECTION 11. Section 603.3.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

603.3.1 Rectangular Ducts. Supports for rectangular ducts shall be installed on two opposite sides of each duct and shall be welded, riveted, bolted, or metal screwed to each side of the duct at intervals specified.

SECTION 12. Section 1114.4 is hereby added to read as follows:

1114.4 Approvals Required. The method of discharge of systems containing other than group A1 refrigerants shall comply with the pertinent requirements of Title 32 – Fire Code – and Division 2 of Title 20 – Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste – of the Los Angeles County Code.

SECTION 13. The provisions of this ordinance contain various changes, modifications, and additions to the 2016 Edition of the California Mechanical Code. Some of these changes are administrative in nature in that they do not constitute changes or modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Mechanical Code.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 17958.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5, the Board of Supervisors hereby expressly finds that all of the changes and modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code contained in this ordinance that are not administrative in nature are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological,

or topographical conditions in the County of Los Angeles as more particularly described in the table set forth below.

TABLE

MECHANICAL CODE AMENDMENTS		
CODE SECTION	CONDITION	EXPLANATION
501.1	Climatic	Additional Health Department requirements are necessary due to local air quality concerns.
510.1.6	Geological	High geologic activities, such as seismic events, in the Southern California area necessitate this local amendment for bracing and support.
603.3.1	Geological	High geologic activities, such as seismic events, in the Southern California area necessitate this local amendment for bracing and support.
1114.4	Geological	High geologic activities, such as seismic events, in the Southern California area necessitate this local amendment to reduce damage and potential for toxic refrigerant release during a seismic event caused by shifting equipment and to minimize impacts to the sewer system in such an event.

SECTION 14. This ordinance shall become operative on January 1, 2017.

[TITLE29MECHANICALCODE2016CSCC]